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URBAN DISTRICT OF NEWPORT PAGNELL

ANNUAL REPORT
of the Medical Officer of Health.
for the Year 1925.

To the Chairman and Members of the Newport Pagnell Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to place before you my Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary Conditions prevailing in your District for the Year 1925.

The Report is a Survey Report and has been compiled in accordance with the instructions indicated in a Memorandum issued by the Ministry of Health. It is divided into the following sections:

1. Natural and Social Conditions.
2. General Provision of Health Services.
3. Sanitary Circumstances.
4. Housing.
5. Inspection and Supervision of Food.
6. Infectious Diseases.

NATURAL and SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area 3,432 acres.

Population. 1921 Census 4,142
1925 estimated 4,104

The town is situated upon the banks of the Great Ouse and its tributary the Lovat and that part of the town near the rivers is liable to flood.

Number of Inhabited Houses 1921 1,073.

Number of Families in separate occupiers 1,077.

The town is the market town for the surrounding agricultural district. A cattle market is held every Wednesday. A few agricultural labourers reside in the town, but this only accounts for a small proportion of the population. A large number of the inhabitants are employed at the L.M.S. Railway carriage works at Wolverton. Others are employed at Messrs Salmons & Sons Motor Carriage Works, at Mineral Water Factory and at the Flour Mills.

Rateable Value. £18,274.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate £60.
Amount of Poor Law Relief. £924.

Hospital and other Gratuitous Medical Relief.

Inhabitants requiring Hospital Treatment are sent to the Northampton General Hospital and large subscriptions are sent to this Institution. Applicants are only admitted on producing a Subscribers Letter, but one of the townsmen has very generously endowed a bed to which admission can be obtained without.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Total Births. 59

Males	Legitimate	23
	Illegitimate	1
Females	Legitimate	34
	Illegitimate	1

Population (R.G.) 4040.

Birth Rate 14.8 per 1,000

The Birth Rate for the whole of England and Wales was 18.3.

Total Deaths. 42

Males 21. Females 21.

Population (R.G.) 4040.

Death Rate. 10.39

The Death Rate for the whole of England and Wales was 12.2.

There were no deaths in Infants under 1 year.

Cancer accounts for 9 deaths.

Males 3. Females 6.

There were 2 deaths from Influenza 1 Male 1 Female.

Tuberculosis.

Pulmonary	4 deaths.	3 Males	1 Female.
Other Forms	1	1 Male.	

All the Pulmonary Deaths had been notified. That from other forms had not.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Hospitals.

Fever. There is no Isolation Hospital for the District. Cases of infectious disease are treated in their own homes. The cases are isolated as far as possible but this is often very inefficient owing to the lack of sufficient accommodation and also to want of care on the part of the parents. An Isolation Hospital would be of great value especially in times of epidemic.

Small Pox. This is administered by a Joint Committee the members of which are elected by the various Councils concerned. No use has been made of this Hospital.

No Institutional Provision is made for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children. Any such cases are sent to the Union Infirmary if necessary.

Ambulance Facilities. There is a motor ambulance kept at Messrs Salmons & Sons Motor Works which serves for several districts of North Bucks. It is under the supervision of the County Director of V. A. Ds.
It is used for infectious, non-infectious and accident cases. The fees for its use are paid by those employing the Ambulance.

There is an Orthopaedic Clinic where deformities of all kinds are seen and treated. It is supported by voluntary contributions and does most valuable work.

CLINICS and TREATMENT CENTRES.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centre. This Centre continues to do good work. A session is held every Wednesday afternoon. The attendance varies, but on an average about 20 infants are brought by their mothers. A record card is kept of every child attending. The weight, mode of feeding and condition of clothing are recorded as well as any illness the child may have had. Each child is seen and examined by the Medical Officer in attendance and appropriate advice given. On alternate Wednesdays a "Talk" is given to the mothers on some health subject. Nurse Dixon is in charge of the Centre and is assisted by a body of voluntary workers. Nurse Dixon is also Health Visitor and Midwife. On being engaged for a case she visits the expectant mother from time to time and gives advice. If she considers it necessary she advises the mother to consult her own doctor or to attend at the centre for advice. Thus the expectant mothers are under skilled supervision throughout their pregnancy. As Health Visitor Nurse Dixon visits all,infants whether attended by her or not and encourages the mother to bring her infant to the Centre. As Midwife she attends about 50 cases a year. I think the town is very fortunate in having such a capable midwife. The standard of her work is very high, and in dificult cases she is invaluable to the Medical man in attendance.

School Clinics. Dental Clinic.
Clinic for operations on Throat.
These are administered by the Education Committee.

Tuberculosis. There is a Tuberculosis Dispensary in Union Street where the Tuberculosis Officer attends on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays in the month. This is under the administration of the County Council.

Public Health Officers.

One Medical Officer of Health part time.
One Sanitary Inspector who also holds the office of Surveyor.

Professional Nurses in the Home. This is carried out by the Good Samaritan Society. This is a voluntary association and employs two nurses who visit the patients in their own homes, and work under the local practitioners. The work of these nurses is most valuable and contributes largely in promoting the health of the inhabitants. These nurses are prohibited from attending infectious cases, the relatives of such cases having to make their own arrangements.

ADOPTIVE ACTS, BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

Adoptive Acts.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1890. Part 111 adopted 1899.
Part 11 adopted 1925.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1907. Adopted 1908.

Byc-Laws.

Relating to	Slaughter Houses	framed & adopted		1899
"	Common Lodging Houses	"	"	1899
"	New Streets & Buildings	"	"	1914
"	Cleansing of Footways	"	"	1899
"	Removal of House Refuse	"	"	1899
"	Cleansing of Privies	"	"	1899
"	Prevention of Nuisances	"	"	1899
"	Keeping of Animals	"	"	1899
"	Offensive Trades	"	"	1899 & 1923
"	Tents & Vans	"	"	1899
"	Burial Ground	"	"	1899
"	Omnibuses	"	"	1922

Regulations.

Controlling Dairies, Cowsheds & Milkshops	framed & adopted	1899
Controlling Water Supply	framed & adopted	1899 & 1923.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Water.

The water is derived from 2 wells situated on high ground on the outskirts of the District. From these wells the water is pumped by means of Gas Engines and wind motor power with a tank at the top of the water tower. The capacity of this tank is 38,000 gallons. The quantity of water pumped during the year has been 29,837,550 gallons. Of this 24,219,285 gallons were pumped by the Engines and 5,618,265 gallons by the wind motor.

The supply is constant and all houses in the town are supplied. The quantity has been sufficient during the year. The quality of the water is excellent but ~~XXXX~~.it is hard.

DRAINAGE & SEWERAGE.

The sewers are constructed of socketed pipes jointed in cement. There is a complete sewerage and drainage system. The sewage gravitates into an underground tank situated in the Council's Yard. From this it is pumped to the sewage farm which is situated about ¾ mile outside the town. The system has worked well and no trouble has been experienced during the year.

Nine new drains have been laid during the year.

RIVERS & STREAMS.

There is no pollution of the rivers in the district except from the unavoidable overflow from the sewage farm during heavy rainfall.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

All the closets in the town are W.C.s and are cistern flushed.

SCAVENGING.

This is carried out by the Council's servants and carts. The weekly removal of house refuse has been maintained during the year.

SCHOOLS.

There is one Elementary School with departments for Boys, Girls, and Infants. Each department is under its own Head Teachers.

The School Buildings are modern, well drained, well ventilated and well lighted. Radiators have recently been installed for heating the premises in place of open fireplaces.

HOUSING.

General Housing Conditions. These are on the whole, good.

Most of the houses are modern, properly constructed, well drained lighted and ventilated. However there are some houses which are old and do not conform to modern requirements.

The shortage of houses is not acute, but more houses are required as in some cases young married couples are living with their parents, or living in rooms.

During the last five years a considerable number of new houses have been built. The Council's Housing Scheme for the erection of 16 houses in Linford Lane has been completed. The scheme for the erection of houses on the London Road site has been abandoned.

The following houses have been built by private enterprise:-

5 in Wolverton Road.
1 in Tickford Street.
1 Bungalow along the Crawley Road.

4 cottages in Union Street which were uninhabited and derelict have been converted into a dwelling house and is now inhabited.

Eight houses have been demolished as they were unfit and unsafe for habitation.

Fitness of Houses. As I have already stated the general standard is good. The chief defects found in the old houses are due to the general construction as low ceilings, deficent light and ventilation dampness owing to absence of damp course.

It will be seen from the Inspectors Report that 61 houses were rendered fit by informal action by the Council or their Officers. On the whole no difficulty had been experienced in getting defects remedied by Owners without resort to Statutory Powers.

No of new houses erected during the year. Nil.

1. UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.
Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects. (Under Public Health or Housing Acts) 134.

2. No. of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 7.

3. No. of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations 1910. 15.

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE.
No of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers. 61.

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A. 1. 2. 3. Nil.

B. 1. 2. Nil.

C. Proceedings under Sections 17 & 18 of the Housing and Town Planning Acts 1919

1. No. of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders.
2. No. of dwelling-houses is respect of which Closing Orders were made.
3. Nil.
4. Nil.
5. Nil.
6. No. of dwelling-houses demolished without the issue of Demolition Orders. 3.

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INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK.

The Milk produced and brought into the District is wholesome and of good quality. There are 13 Dairymen or Purveyors of Milk on the Register. Some of these procure their milk from farms outside the District. There are 6 Cowkeepers on the Register. In August 1925 your Council took proceedings against a cowkeeper and dairyman for contravention of Articles 7, 8 & 12 of the Dairies, Cowsheds Milkshop Order. Convictions were obtained in all cases and fines amounting to 19 guineas were imposed. 49 inspections of Dairies & Cowsheds were made during the year, 24 defects were found and remedied.

MEAT.

There are 4 Slaughter Houses on the Register. 251 inspections were made. 12 defects were found and remedied. 195 lbs of unsound meat were surrendered and destroyed during the year. The coming into force of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations in April has been the means of further improvement in the conduct of the Slaughter houses.

	1920	January 1925	December 1925
Registered	3	4	4

Bakehouses. There are 4 on the Register. Twenty three inspections have been made. Two defects were found and remedied.

Offensive Trades. A Dealer in hides and offals was proceeded against in January, and the summones were withdrawn on the defendant's Solicitor giving him an undertaking that the requirements of the Council's Bye Laws and Regulations should be carried out, and the payment of costs.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following is a table of the notifications of infectious diseases during the years 1921 to 1924 inclusive. Those for 1925 are given below.

Diseases.	1921	1922	1923	1924
Scarlet Fever	13	4		
Diphtheria		1		
Pneumonia	1	2		
Enteric Fever				1
Erysipelas		2	1	1

The District has been comparatively free from infectious diseases during the last 5 years as will be seen from the above Table, and there is nothing calling specially for comment.

Diphtheria Antitoxin. This is supplied by your Council free of charge to all practitioners requiring it. One of the Chemists in the town keeps a stock of it and it is available at all times. Very little has been required during the above period.

Encephalitis Lethargica. One case has occurred in the district. It was removed to the Isolation Hospital at Oakley Bedford where it was under treatment for some weeks.

Pathological and Bacteriological Examinations. This consists almost entirely of examination of swabs from the throat in suspected cases of Diphtheria. The examination is carried out by the Pathological Department of the Northampton Hospital and the result reported by phone or telegram in the first place followed later by a detailed written report. Very few specimens have been examined during the last 5 years.

No use has been made of the Schick and Dick tests for Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever respectively.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1925.

Scarlet Fever	8
Pneumonia	1

No cases have been admitted to Hospital.

No deaths occurred.

A considerable number of cases of Measles occurred during the year. They were mostly confined to children attending the Infant School. For the most part they were mild and no serious complications occurred.

Chicken Pox has been prevalent during the year. It occurred among scholars attending the Elementary School.

Tuberculosis.

New cases and Mortality during 1925.

	New Cases				Deaths.			
Age Periods.	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1 -5 years			1					
5 -10 "				1			1	
10-15 "	1							
20-25 "	1				1			
25-35 "	1				1			
35-45 "	1	1			1	1		
	4	1	1	1	3	1	1	

This concludes the Report. It will be seen that the Birth Rate 14.6 per 1,000 is considerably below that for the whole of England and Wales which is 18.3. On the other hand, the Death Rate 10.39 is below that for England and Wales which is 12.2. There has been very little Infectious Disease during the year and nothing of the nature of an epidemic. The standard of Housing is good, but there are still some houses of a low standard which I hope will be improved before long.

In conclusion I wish to place on record the excellent relations that exist between your officials and the harmony with which they work, and to show my appreciation of the assistance that has been given me by your Clerk, Mr Roberts, and Sanitary Inspector, Mr Budds by taking this opportunity of thanking them.

I am Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
Chas. H. F. Bailey.
Medical Officer of Health.

May 3rd 1926.

1925.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

1. GENERAL.

No of Inspections.	851
,, Complaints received	20
,, Nuisances detected without complaint.	307
,, Notices served: Formal	15
,, ,, ,, Informal.	192
,, Nuisances abated, (a) by person responsible.	318
,, ,, ,, (b) by Council.	Nil
,, Summonses taken out.	5
,, Convictions (2 withdrawn on payment of costs)	3.

2. HOUSE INSPECTIONS.

,, Roofs repaired	14
,, Spouts cleaned and repaired	8
,, Pavements repaired	12
,, Overcrowding abated.	1
,, Dirty houses cleansed.	17
,, Other house defects remedied	53

3. DRAINS, W. C's etc.

,, Drains cleansed repaired & ventilated.	15
,, New drains laid.	9
,, W.C's constructed.	4
,, ,, repaired.	18
,, ,, supplied with water, formerly without.	2

4. WATER SUPPLY.

All houses supplied with tap-water.

5. FOOD.

,, Seizures of unsound food.	Nil
,, Surrenders of unsound food.(195 lbs.) meat.	8.

6. SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

No on Register.	4
, of inspections.	251
, , defects found	12
,, ,, remedied	12

7. BAKEHOUSES.

No on Register.	4
, of inspections	23
, , defects found.	2
, , defects remedied	2

8. DAIRIES, COWSHEDS & MILKSHOPS.

No of Dairymen or Purveyors of Milk, on Register.	13
, , Cowkeepers on Register	6
, , inspections.	49
, , defects found.	24
, , ,, remedied.	21.

9. FACTORIES & WORKSHOPS.

No on Register.	26
, of inspections.	54
, , defects found.	5
, , ,, remedied.	5

10. VARIOUS.

, , Visits to infected houses.	19
, , Houses disinfected.	8
, , Lodging House visits.	8
, , defects remedied	2
, , Removals of animals improperly kept.	7
, , Offensive accumulations removed.	20
, , Ashbins provided.	54
, , Building Bye-laws contraventions.	6

ANNUAL REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the year 1925, for the URBAN DISTRICT of
NEWPORT PAGNELL.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS and WORKPLACES.

1. INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS and WORKPLACES.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted.
1	2	3	4
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	54	Nil	Nil
Total	54	Nil	Nil

2. DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS and WORKPLACES.

Particulars.	Number of defects.	
	Found.	Remedied.
1	2	3
Other Nuisances.	5.	5.
Total.	5.	5.

(Signature) Chas. H. F. Bailey.
Medical Officer of Health.
Date. May 3rd 1926.